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10/523,601

## REMARKS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner Holmes for discussing this matter last month. This response is believed to place the subject matter, previously indicated in the Advisory Action as being allowable, in a condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of this case is now requested.

Claims 26 is first objected because of the informalities noted in the official action. The subject matter of claim 26 is accordingly revised and incorporated into claim 23 and, in view of this, the Applicant believes that this objection is overcome.

Next, claims 23-25, 27, 29-32 and 35 are rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), in view of Showalter '566; claim 37 is rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), in view of Showalter '566 and Kobayashi '161; while claim 38 is rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Showalter '566 and Batchelor. The Applicant acknowledges and respectfully traverses all of the raised anticipatory and obviousness rejections in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 33, 34, 43 and 44 are allowed while claims 26, 28, 36 and 39-42 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim(s). In view of this indication, the allowable subject matter of claim 26 is incorporated into independent claim 23 and this amended independent claim is now believed to be allowable. As claims 24, 25, 27-31 and 35-42 all depend, either directly or indirectly, from amended claim 23, those dependent claims are also believed to be in a condition for allowance. In addition, minor editorial amendments are entered with respect to allowed claims 33, 34, 43 and 44 but such amendments are not believed to effect, in any way, the allowability of such claims.

If any further amendment to this application is believed necessary to advance prosecution and place this case completely in allowable form, the Examiner is courteously solicited to contact the undersigned representative of the Applicant to discuss the same.

In view of the above claim amendments, the Applicant respectfully submits that further comments concerning the applied prior art is not believed necessary. The Applicant also notes

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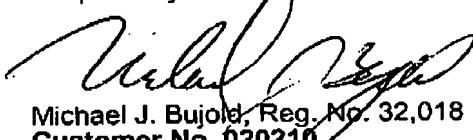
the remaining prior art cited in the official action. As none of that additional art is applied by the Examiner against the claims of this application, the Applicant is not providing any comments concerning that art as well.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the raised rejection(s) should be withdrawn and this application is now placed in a condition for allowance. Action to that end, in the form of an early Notice of Allowance, is courteously solicited by the Applicant at this time.

The Applicant respectfully requests that any outstanding objection(s) or requirement(s), as to the form of this application, be held in abeyance until allowable subject matter is indicated for this case.

In the event that there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge the same or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account (Account No. 04-0213).

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Bujold, Reg. No. 32,018  
Customer No. 020210  
Davis Bujold & Daniels, P.L.L.C.  
112 Pleasant Street  
Concord, NH 03301-2931  
Telephone 603-226-7490  
Facsimile 603-226-7499  
E-mail: [patent@davisandbujold.com](mailto:patent@davisandbujold.com)